

# Minutes

of the Physics Department meeting  
held Wednesday December 12, 2012 in UH168.

Present: Benjamin, Boukahil, Constantinescu, Doering, Nawash, Rybski, Sahyun

- I. Meeting called to order at 5:40 pm.
- II. Rybski/Constantinescu moved to approve the December 5, 2012 minutes. Motion passed.
- III. Announcements
  - a. Chair's Announcements
    - i. The Department Budget was postponed. A statement will be e-mailed.
- IV. Old Business
  - a. Nanophysics position search status update: the ranking sheet will be e-mailed for review and initial review of candidates will begin.
  - b. Printer vs. Copier vs. Printing service was discussed. Based on price calculations, using the copier is the most cost-effective method for our printing needs.
  - c. There was a review of Dept. courses, number of students, and average student evaluations. It was requested that the evaluation data be broken down by major and non-major courses. The total number of students in physics courses for the last several semesters was also discussed.
  - d. There was initial discussion on the Fall 2013 schedule with faculty submitting requested courses and times. Sahyun will compile the information and email a schedule for review.
- V. New Business
  - a. A potential new course was discussed: A 3 cr lecture based course called "How Things Work" would appeal to a wide range of students and provide ample sources of discussion of physics in everyday items or items currently in the news (for example, what is the physics behind the Mars Curiosity Rover or 3D televisions.) This could be alternated with the Energy course in the large lecture hall to increase the SCH/FTE.
- VI. Announcements
  - i. Dr. Peter Timbie, UW-Madison presented "How Old is the Universe, and How Do We Know It?", the last of the Fall series of five Whitewater Observatory lectures on "The Age of Life, the Universe and Everything!"

There were 95 attendees, about half of whom were students and the rest being members of the wider community.

- ii. Other announcements: The next meeting was scheduled for Dec. 19 [subsequently cancelled] and the first meeting of the Spring Semester was suggested to be January 18, 2013. [Subsequently moved to January 23, 2013].

VII. Benjamin/Rybski moved to adjourn at 6:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven  
Sahyun

Secretary of the day

cc: Dean Pinkerton